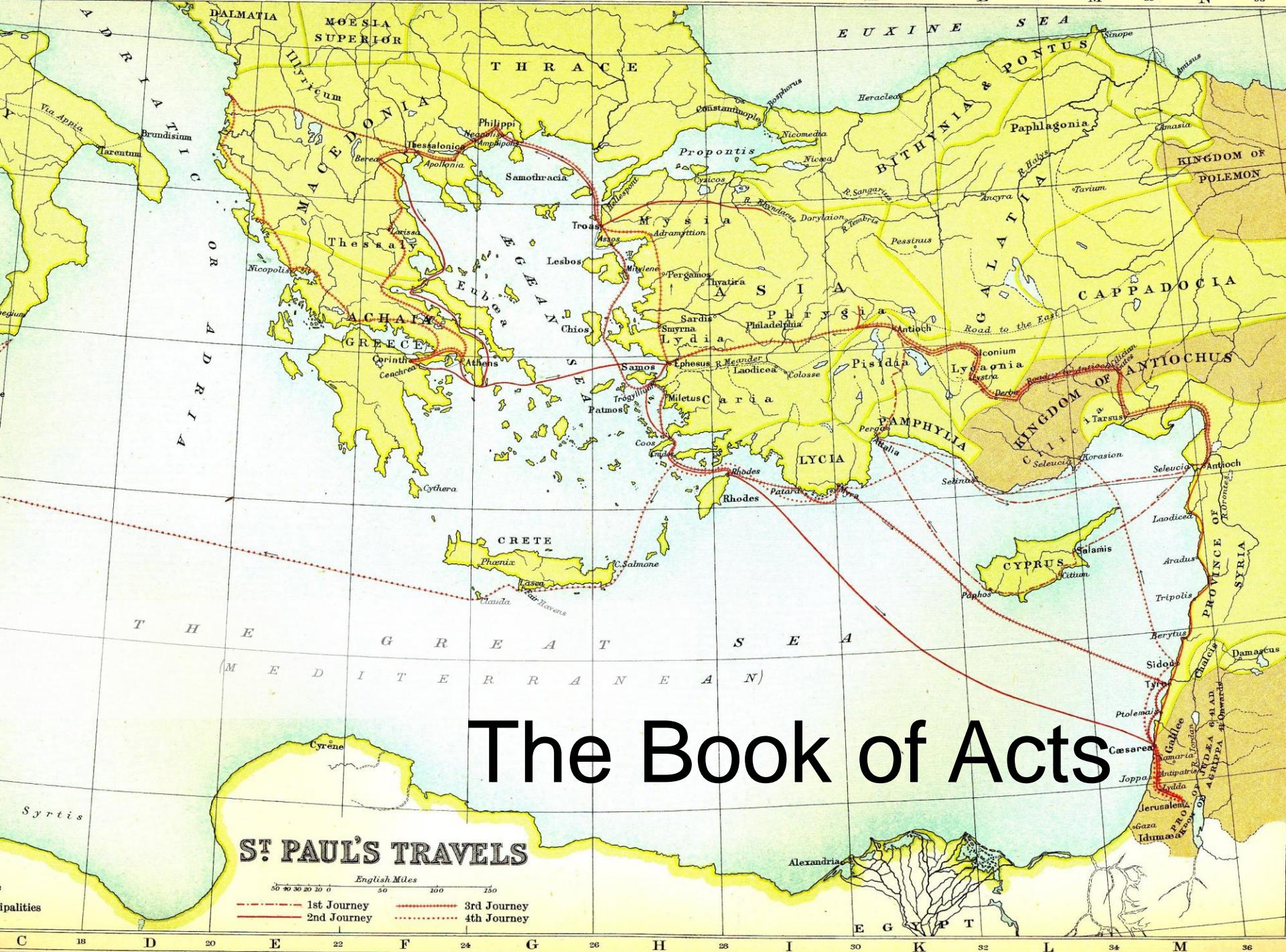


THE BOOK OF ACTS: THE FINAL REFORMATION – SAMI WILBERFORCE

1-20	Acts 1:8 -	Ambassadors of God
2-20	Acts 1-28 -	Preface
3-20	Acts 1 -	The Purpose of the Book
4-20	Acts 2 -	An Upper Room Experience
5-20	Acts 2:16 -	The Early Rain
6-20	Acts 2:21 -	A Preparatory for Latter Rain
7-20	Acts 2:26, 27 -	Unity in Diversity
8-20	Acts 3-5 -	Holy Fire vs Strange Fire
9-20	Acts 5-8 -	Our First Allegiance
10-20	Acts 9-15 -	Persecution a Seed
11-20	Acts 16-18 -	Sentinels of Truth
12-20	Acts 19 -	Every Chain Broken
13-20	Acts 19 -	Breaking the Prejudice
14-20	Acts 17-19 -	False Education Overthrown
15-20	Acts 20-27 -	Before Kings and Councils
16-20	Acts 28 -	Babylon the Mystery of Iniquity
17-20	Acts 28 -	The Ship is Going Through
18-20	Bonus -	There is a Limit
19-20	Bonus -	The Signal to Flee
20-20	Bonus -	Maranatha [It won't be Long]



The Book of Acts

AMBASSADORS OF GOD

ACTS 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Let us read and receive and present to others the second chapter of the book of Acts. We need a deeper piety and the sincere meekness of the Great Teacher. I am instructed . . . that the whole book of Acts is our lesson book. All of us need to humble our own individual hearts, and be converted daily. (Letter 32, 1910).

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Mat. 3:1 In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 3:2 And saying, **Repent** ye: for **the kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

John had a message; He had the Gospel.

Jesus preached the same Gospel.

Mat. 4:17 From that time **Jesus** began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for **the kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Mat. 10:1 And when he had called unto [him] his **twelve disciples**, he gave them power [against] unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Then He said,

Mat. 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matt. 24:14 And **this gospel of the kingdom** shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and **then shall the end come.**

Mark 4:28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 4:29 **But when the fruit is brought forth**, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because **the harvest is come.**



GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Mat. 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, **Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?** 18:2 And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be **converted**, and become as **little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall **humble himself** as this little child, the same is greatest in **the kingdom of heaven**.

A large lion is lying down in a field of tall, green and yellow grass. A small, white lamb is resting on the lion's back, facing away from the camera. The lion is looking towards the right. The background is blurred, showing more of the grassy field.

PRINCIPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The King is the Holy Spirit

PRINCIPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Luke 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with **observation**. 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**

Christ's focus was the principles of the Kingdom.

INVITATION TO **THRONE OF** **GRACE**

Heb. 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto **the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

CHRIST'S KINGDOM

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

ABRAHAM'S KINGDOM

Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as [in] a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 11:10 **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker [is] God.**

CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

Eph. 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellowcitizens** with the saints, and of the household of God;

Phil. 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; **from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

AMBASSADORS ON EARTH

2Cor. 5:20 Now then we are
ambassadors for Christ, as
though God did beseech [you]
by us: we pray [you] in
Christ's stead, be ye
reconciled to God.

WHAT IS AN AMBASSADOR?

EMBASSADOR, n. - A minister of the **highest rank** employed by one prince or state, at the court of another, **to manage the public concerns of his own prince or state, and representing the power and dignity of his sovereign.** Ambassadors are ordinary, when they reside permanently at a foreign court; or extraordinary, when they are sent on a special occasion. They are also called ministers.

IN, BUT NOT OF...

John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another. 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you. 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

IN, BUT NOT OF...

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

CHRIST PROTECTS HIS
AMBASSADORS

Job. 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.



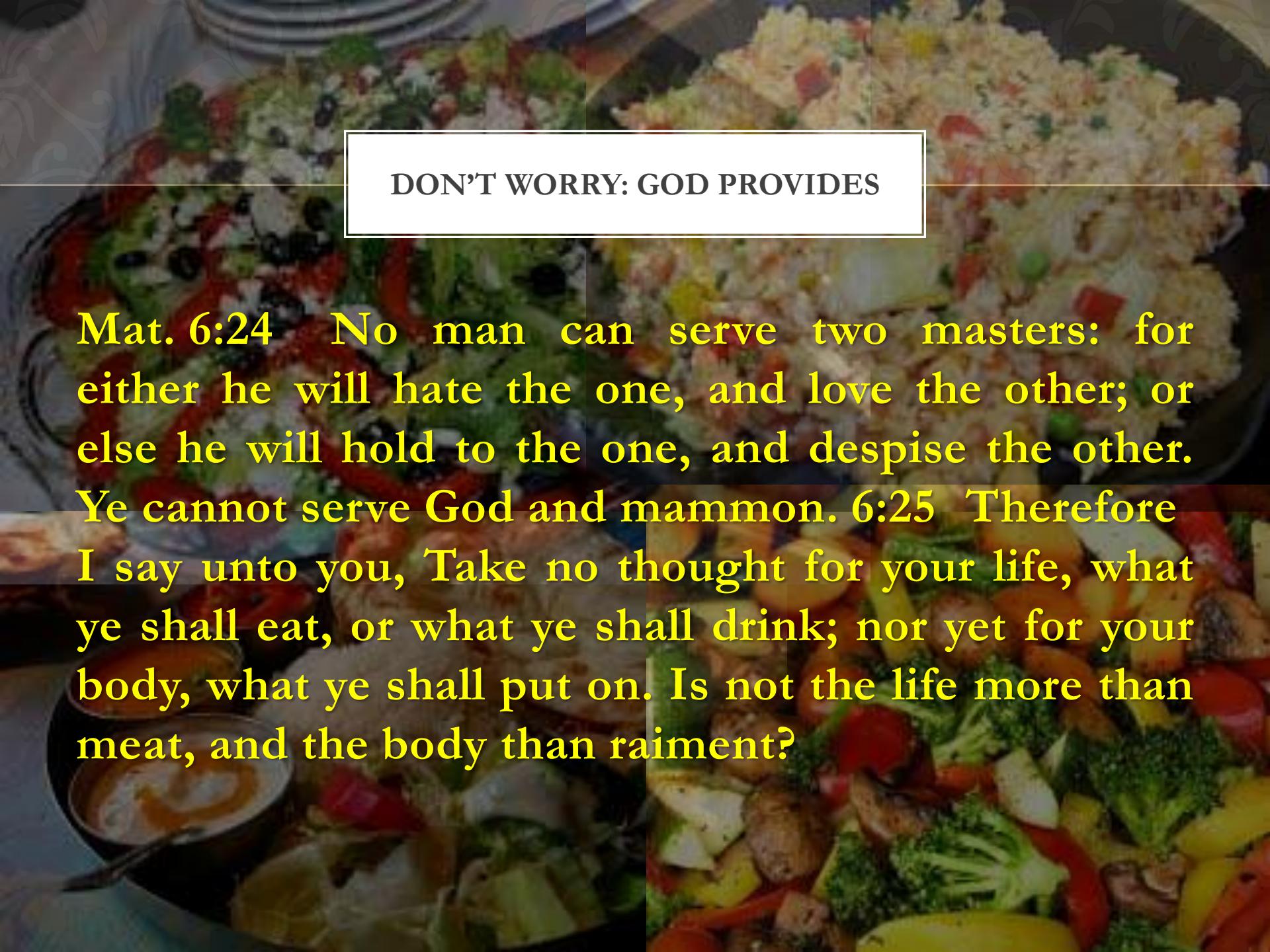
CHRIST PROTECTS HIS
AMBASSADORS

Ps. 34:7 The angel of the **LORD** encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

2Pet. 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

CHRIST INHERITS IT ALL

Ps. 50:10 For every
beast of the forest [is]
mine, [and] the cattle
upon a thousand hills.



DON'T WORRY: GOD PROVIDES

Mat. 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

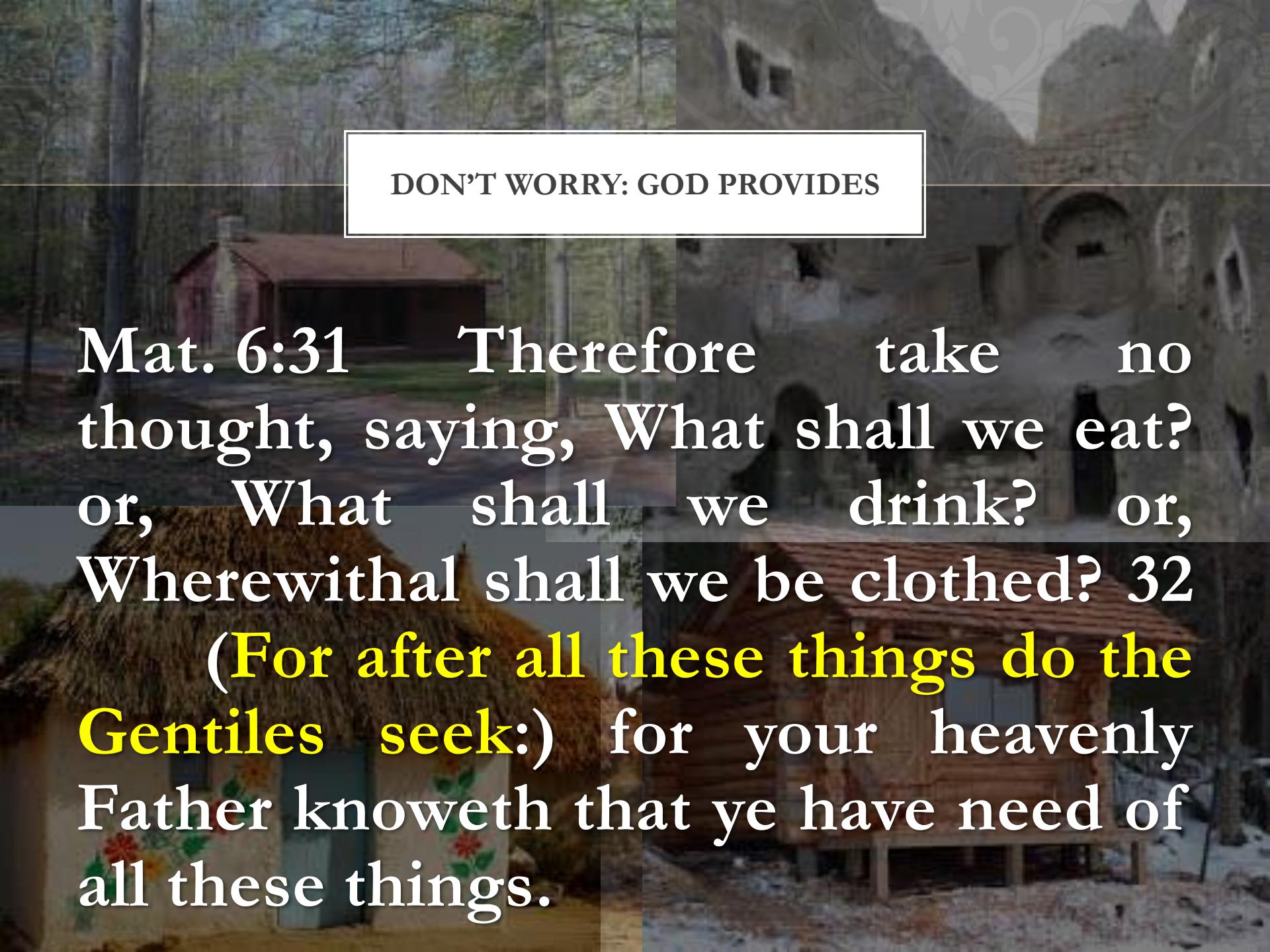
DON'T WORRY: GOD PROVIDES

Mat. 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 6:28

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

DON'T WORRY: GOD PROVIDES

Mat. 6:29 And yet I say unto you,
That even Solomon in all his glory was
not arrayed like one of these. 30
Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass
of the field, which to day is, and to
morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he]
not much more [clothe] you, O ye of
little faith?



DON'T WORRY: GOD PROVIDES

Mat. 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32
 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

DON'T WORRY: GOD PROVIDES

Mat. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

DON'T WORRY: GOD PROVIDES

Isa. 33:15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; 33:16

He shall dwell on high: his place of defence [shall be] the munitions of rocks: **bread shall be given him; his waters [shall be] sure.** 33:17

Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

GOD'S FORTRESS

{AA 11.2} The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived.

GOD'S FORTRESS

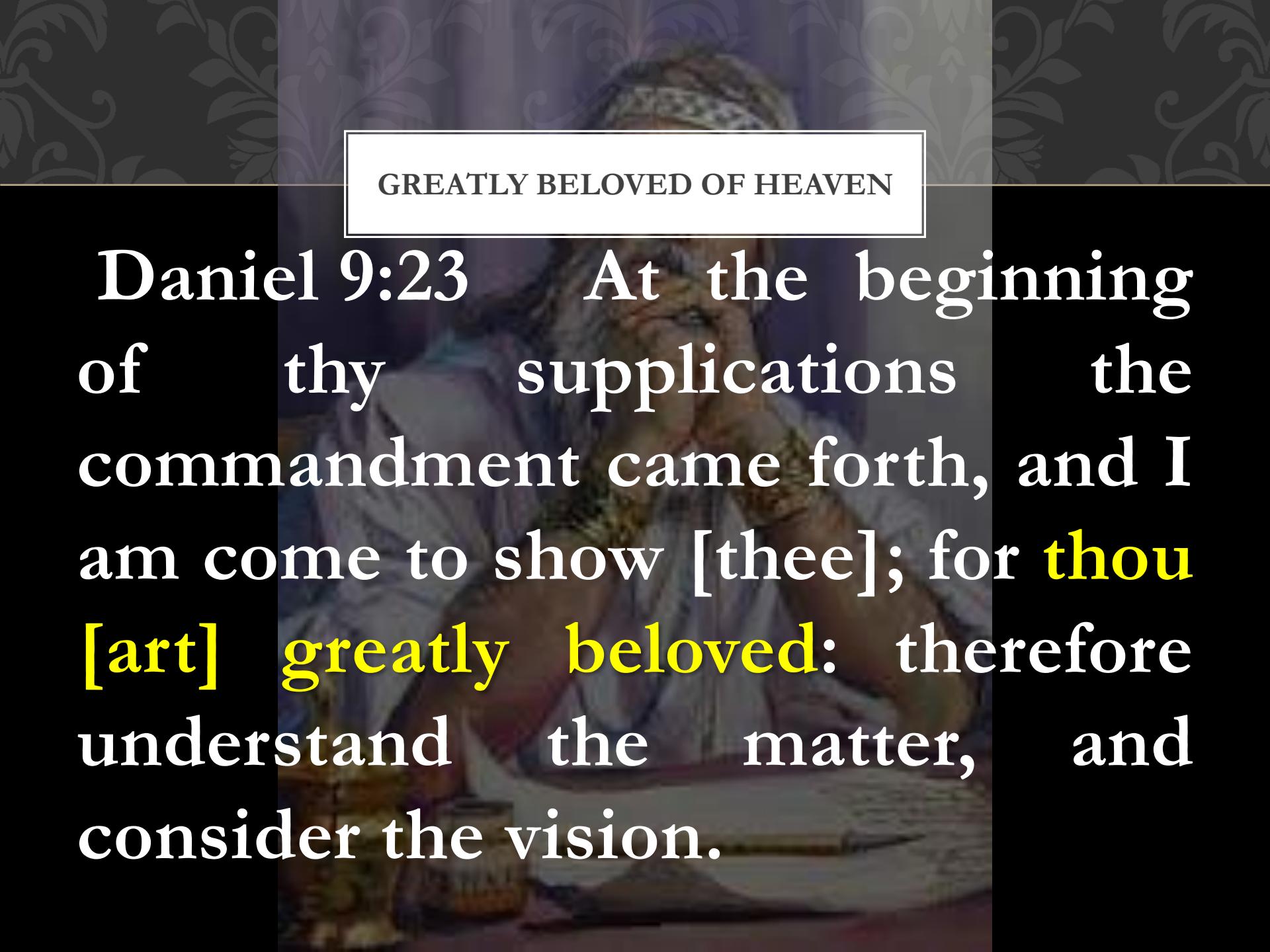
These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people. {AA 11.2}

CUSTOM DEMONSTRATES
RESPECT

Dan. 2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, **O king, live for ever:** tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.

3:9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, **O king, live for ever.**

5:10 [Now] the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: [and] the queen spake and said, **O king, live for ever...**



GREATLY BELOVED OF HEAVEN

Daniel 9:23 At the beginning
of thy supplications the
commandment came forth, and I
am come to show [thee]; for thou
[art] greatly beloved: therefore
understand the matter, and
consider the vision.

DANIEL RESPECTED EARTHLY
RULERS

Dan. 6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king,
live for ever.

Despite the fact that earthly kings cannot live forever, yet, Daniel addressed them according to the customs of the day demonstrating a fundamental principle of Heaven – Respect.

NEHEMIAH'S ATTITUDE TO THE
KING

Nehemiah 2:3 And said unto the king, **Let the king live for ever:** why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, [lieth] waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

RESPECT EARTHLY AUTHORITIES

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

RESPECT EARTHLY AUTHORITIES

**Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues:
tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom
custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.**

**1 Pet. 2:17 Honour all [men]. Love the
brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.**

GIVE CAESAR HIS DUE
OBEDIENCE

Mat 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Civil Regulations in all Human Relations (Fair Trade, Personal and Property protection, etc.), including:

Solemnizing Marriages

Public Assembly for Worship

Missionary Work Crossing Borders (Proper travel Documents)

Financial Accountability

Mandatory National holidays (etc.)

GIVE CAESAR HIS, NOT GOD'S

Mat 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; **and unto God the things that are God's.**

Ordinance of Baptism

Ordinance of Lord's Supper

Ordinance of selecting Church Leadership

Protocol for Executing the Great Commission

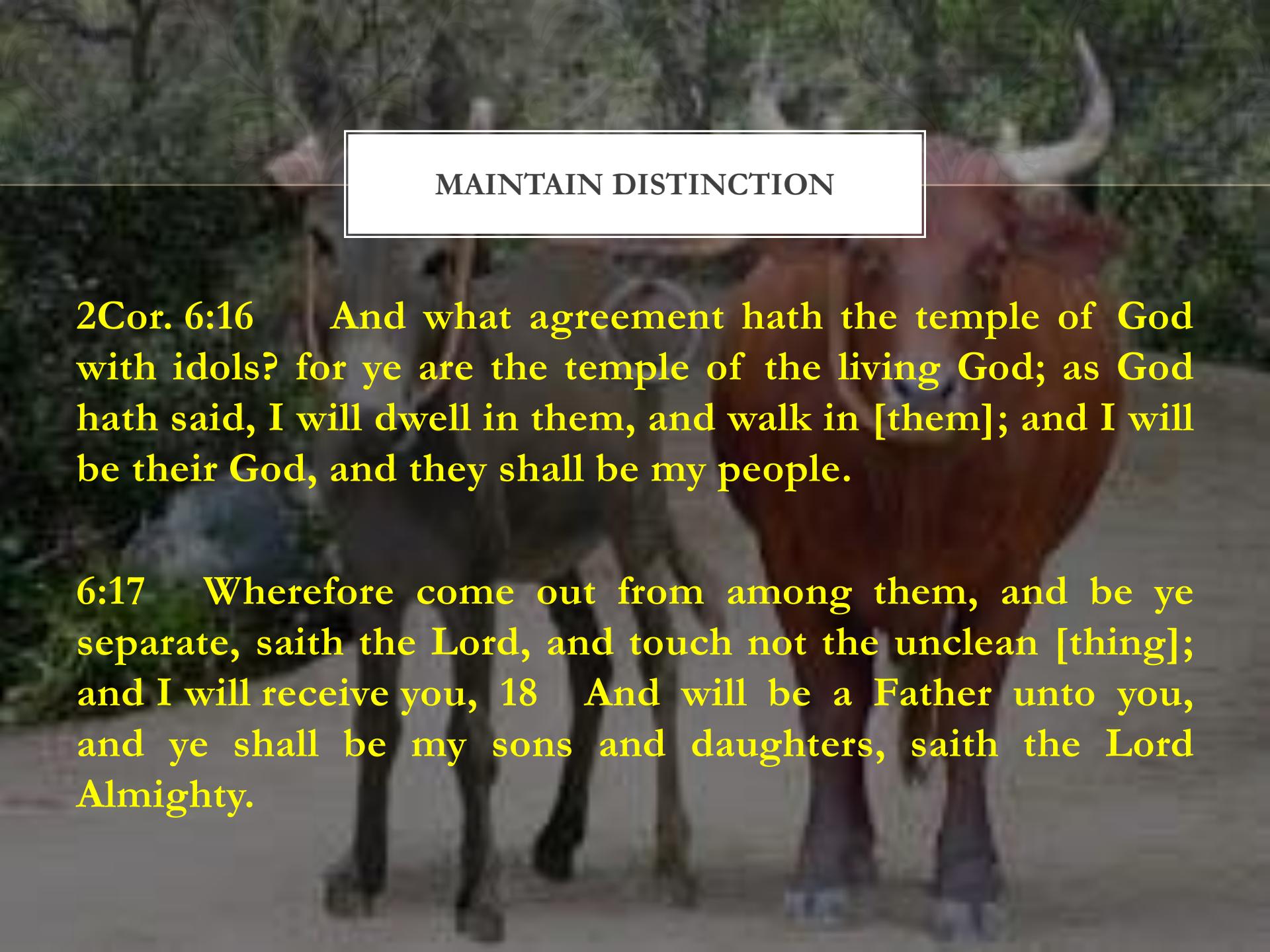
The required Day of Rest for worship

MAINTAIN DISTINCTION

2 Tim. 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the **affairs** of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a **soldier**.

MAINTAIN DISTINCTION

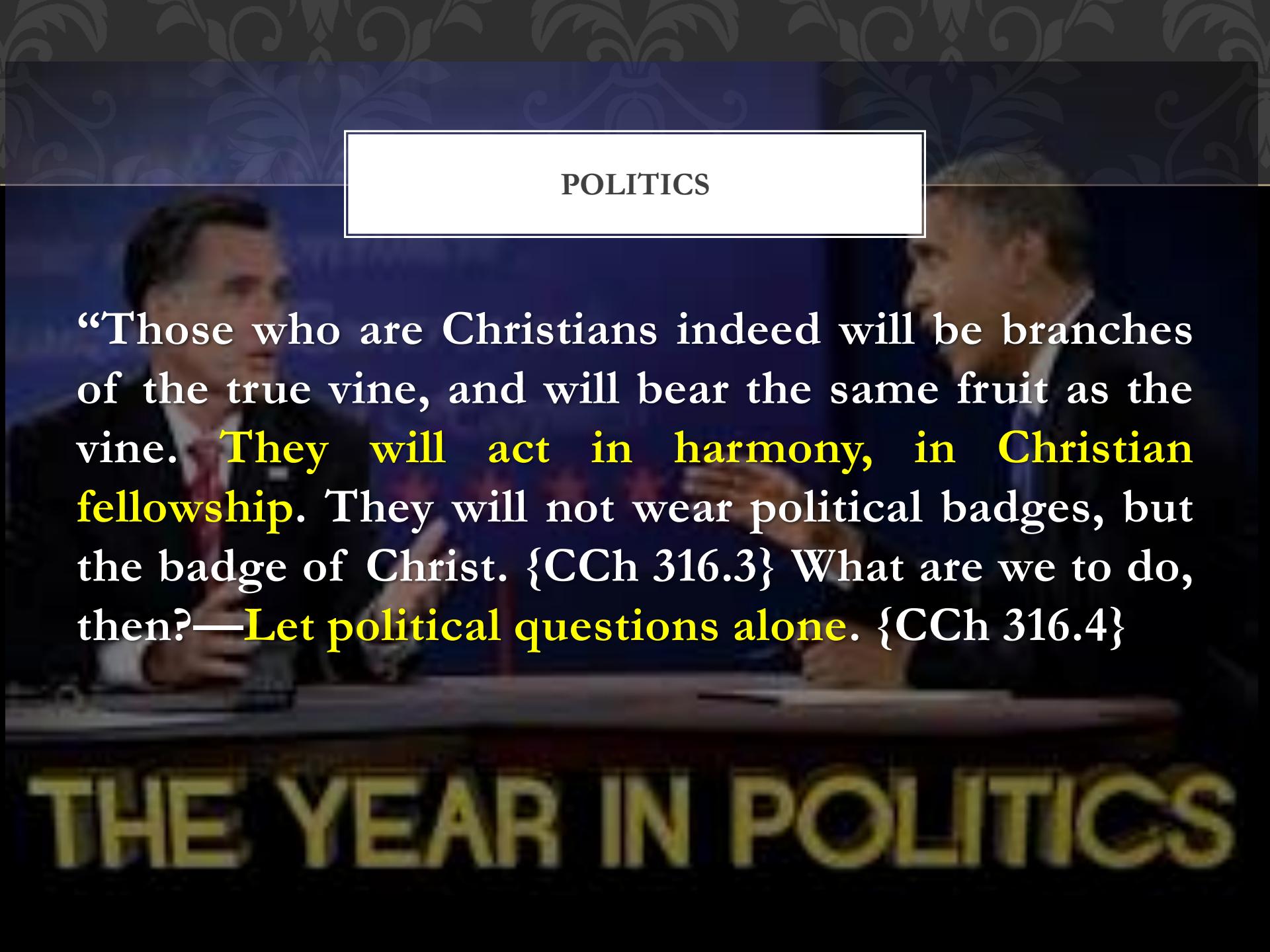
2 Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?



MAINTAIN DISTINCTION

2Cor. 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

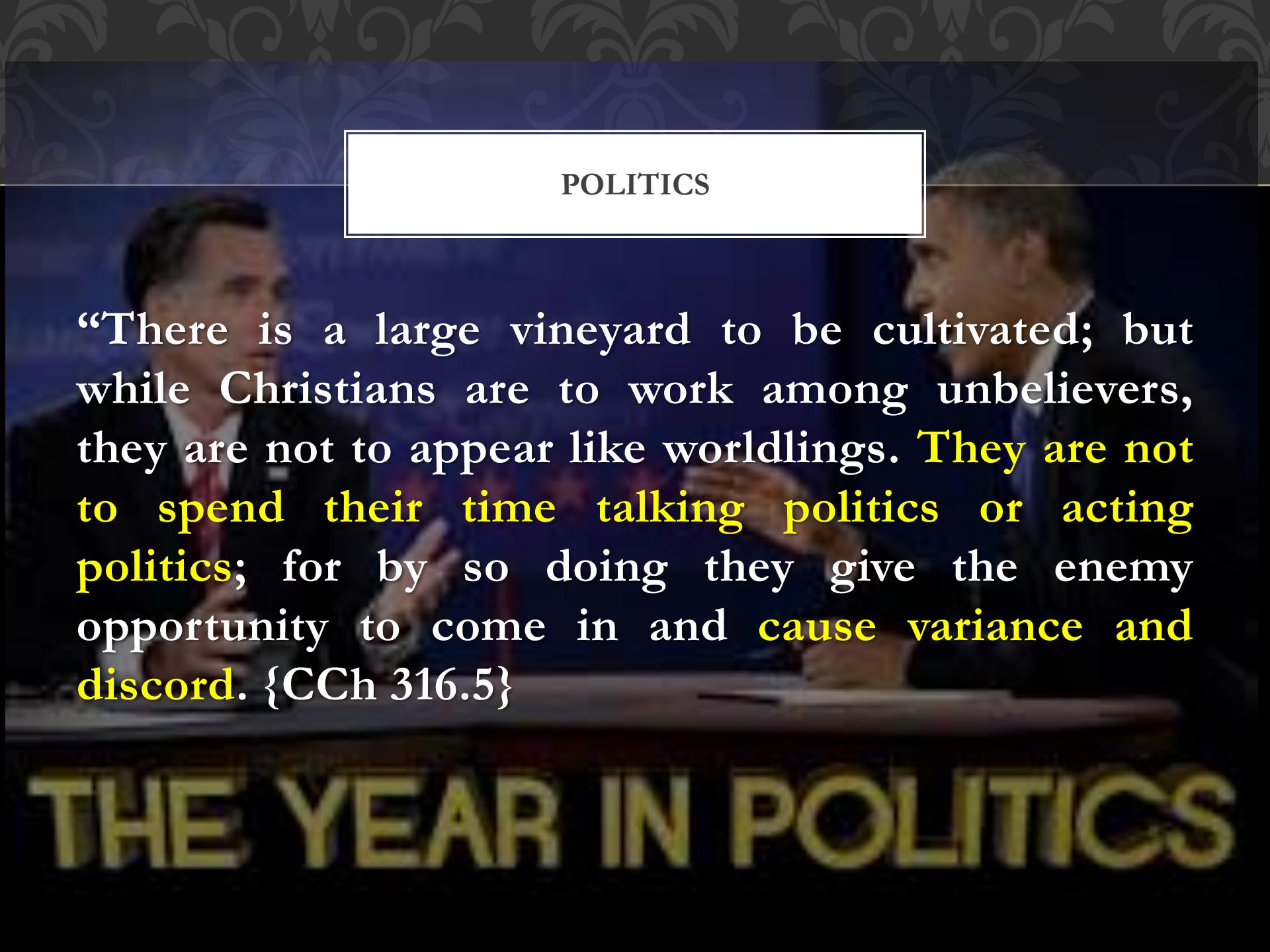
6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.



POLITICS

“Those who are Christians indeed will be branches of the true vine, and will bear the same fruit as the vine. **They will act in harmony, in Christian fellowship.** They will not wear political badges, but the badge of Christ. {CCh 316.3} What are we to do, then?—**Let political questions alone.** {CCh 316.4}

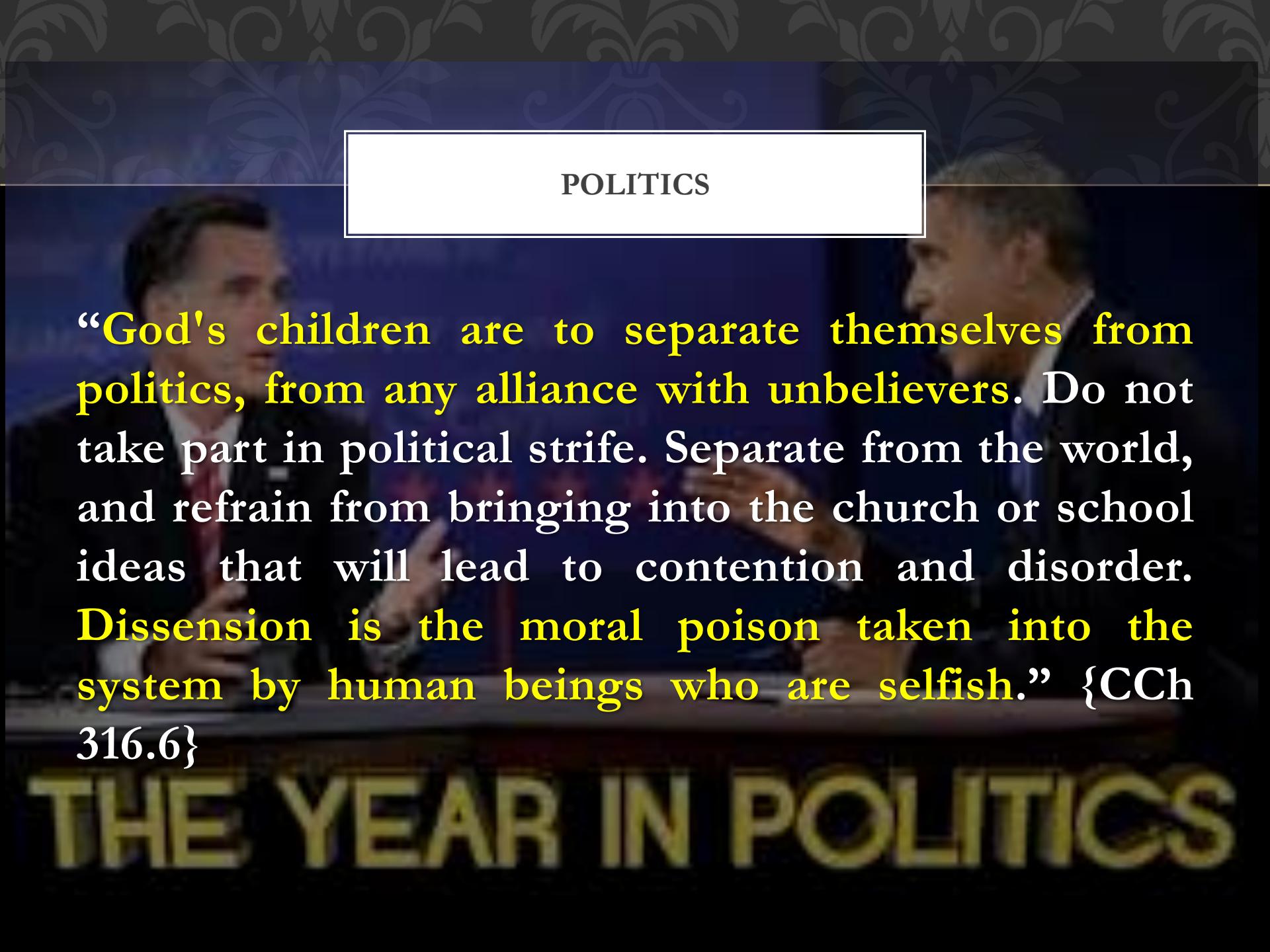
THE YEAR IN POLITICS



POLITICS

“There is a large vineyard to be cultivated; but while Christians are to work among unbelievers, they are not to appear like worldlings. They are not to spend their time talking politics or acting politics; for by so doing they give the enemy opportunity to come in and cause variance and discord. {CCh 316.5}

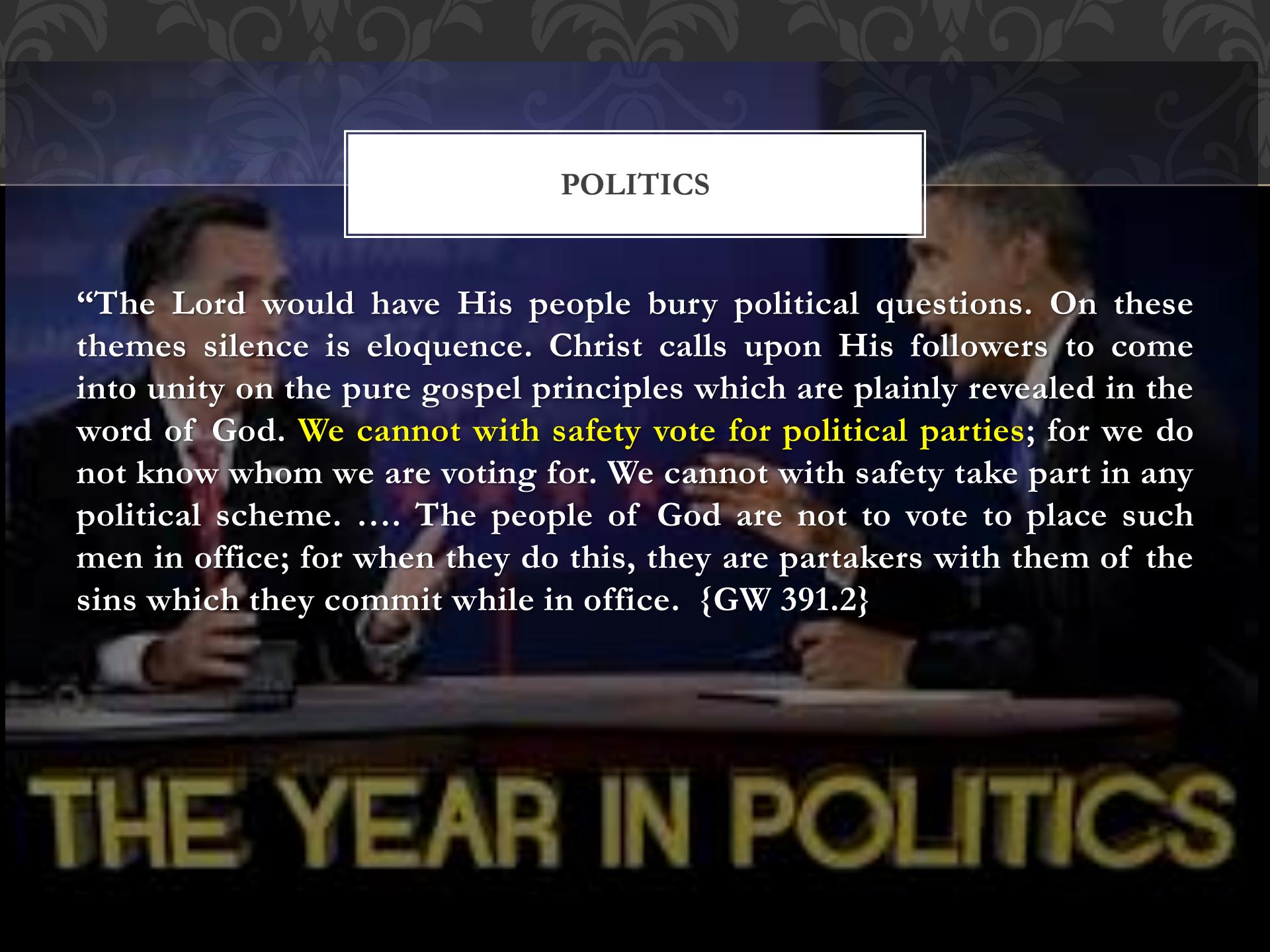
THE YEAR IN POLITICS



POLITICS

“God's children are to separate themselves from politics, from any alliance with unbelievers. Do not take part in political strife. Separate from the world, and refrain from bringing into the church or school ideas that will lead to contention and disorder. Dissension is the moral poison taken into the system by human beings who are selfish.” {CCh 316.6}

THE YEAR IN POLITICS



POLITICS

“The Lord would have His people bury political questions. On these themes silence is eloquence. Christ calls upon His followers to come into unity on the pure gospel principles which are plainly revealed in the word of God. **We cannot with safety vote for political parties;** for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political scheme. The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office. {GW 391.2}

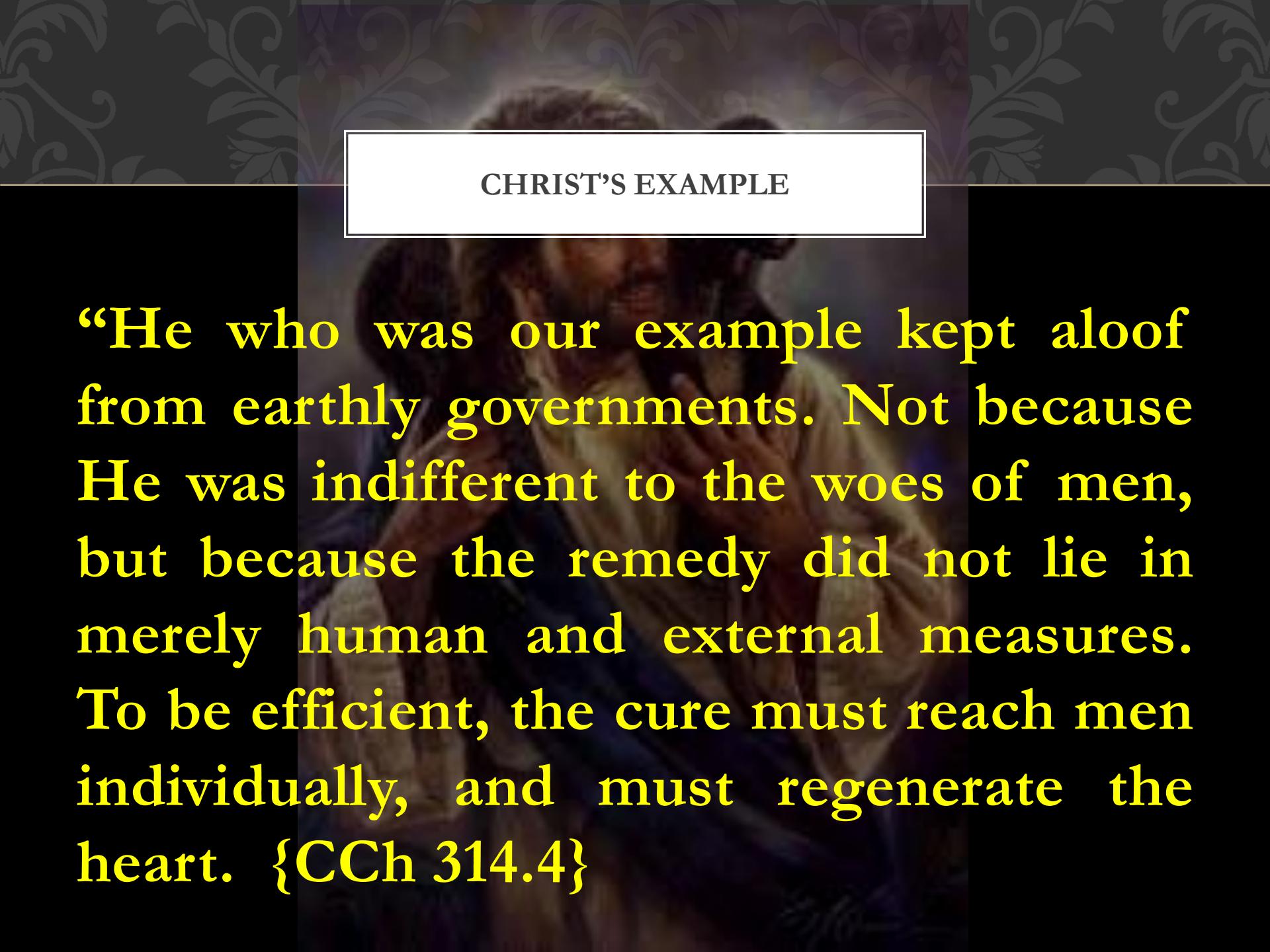
THE YEAR IN POLITICS

TRADE UNIONS

“The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force. In the world gigantic monopolies will be formed. Men will bind themselves together in unions that will wrap them in the folds of the enemy. A few men will combine to grasp all the means to be obtained in certain lines of business. Trades unions will be formed, and those who refuse to join these unions will be marked men.--Letter 26, 1903. {CL 10.3}

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

{CCh 314.4} “The government under which Jesus lived was corrupt and oppressive; on every hand were crying abuses—extortion, intolerance, and grinding cruelty. **Yet the Saviour attempted no civil reforms.** He attacked no national abuses, nor condemned the national enemies. He did not interfere with the authority or administration of those in power.



CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

“He who was our example kept aloof from earthly governments. Not because He was indifferent to the woes of men, but because the remedy did not lie in merely human and external measures. To be efficient, the cure must reach men individually, and must regenerate the heart. {CCh 314.4}

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

“Again and again Christ had been asked to decide legal and political questions. But He refused to interfere in temporal matters. **Christ stood in our world as the Head of the great spiritual kingdom that He came to our world to establish—the kingdom of righteousness.** His teaching made plain the ennobling, sanctifying principles that govern this kingdom. He showed that justice and mercy and love are the controlling powers in Jehovah's kingdom. 567 {CCh 314.5}

PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS

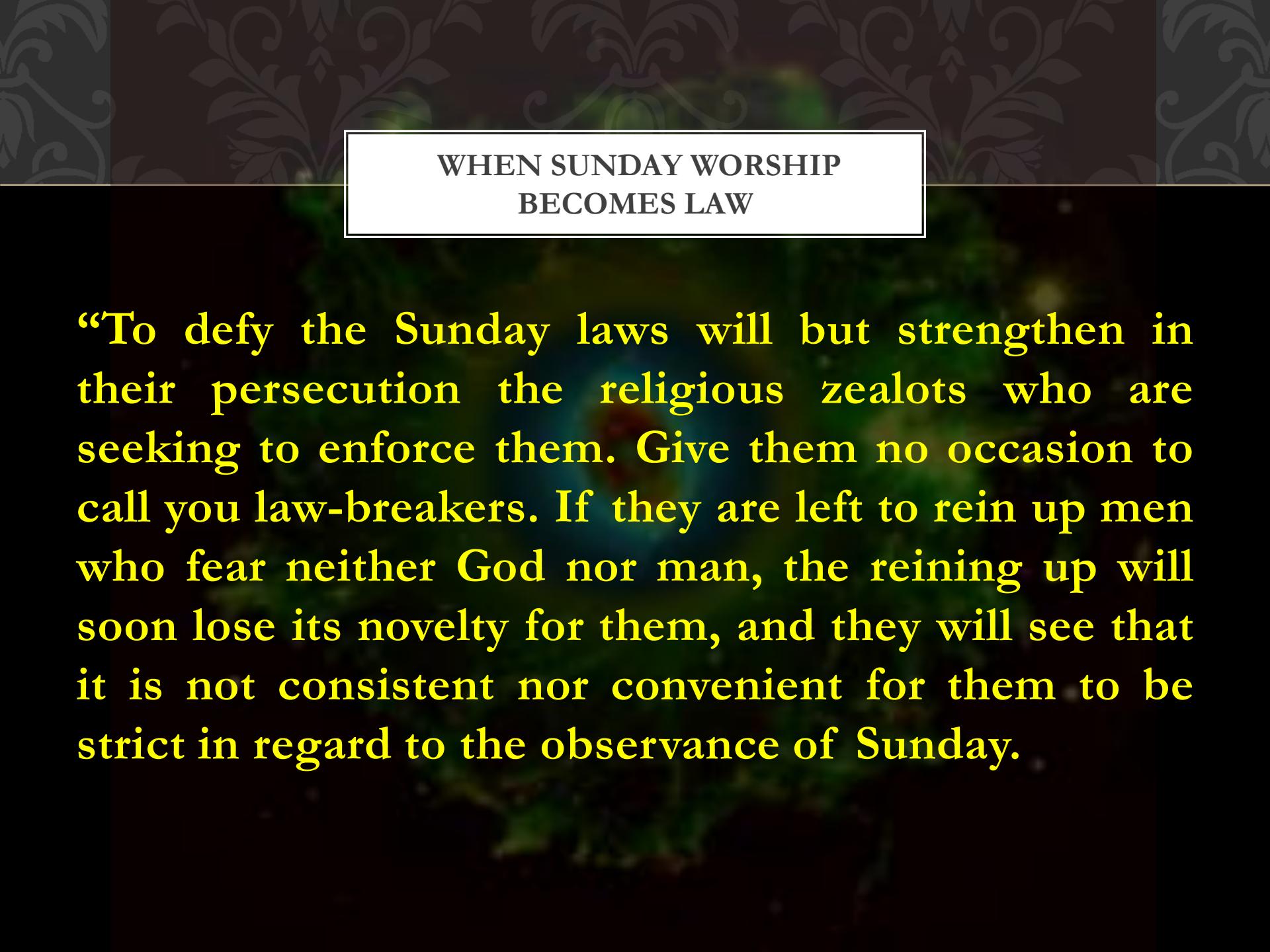
Though it is true that we are not citizens of this world, and therefore do not involve ourselves in the politics, governments and unions of the world, yet, we must be decent, honorable, respectable, law abiding Christians. Any civil law that does not interfere with our conscientious worship to God should be obeyed.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION

"We have no right to do anything that will obstruct the light which is shining from heaven; yet by a wrong course of action we may imperil the work, and close the door which God has opened for the entrance of the truth. The final issue on the Sabbath question has not yet come, and by imprudent actions we may bring on a crisis before the time. You may have all the truth, but you need not let it all flash at once upon minds, lest it become darkness to them.

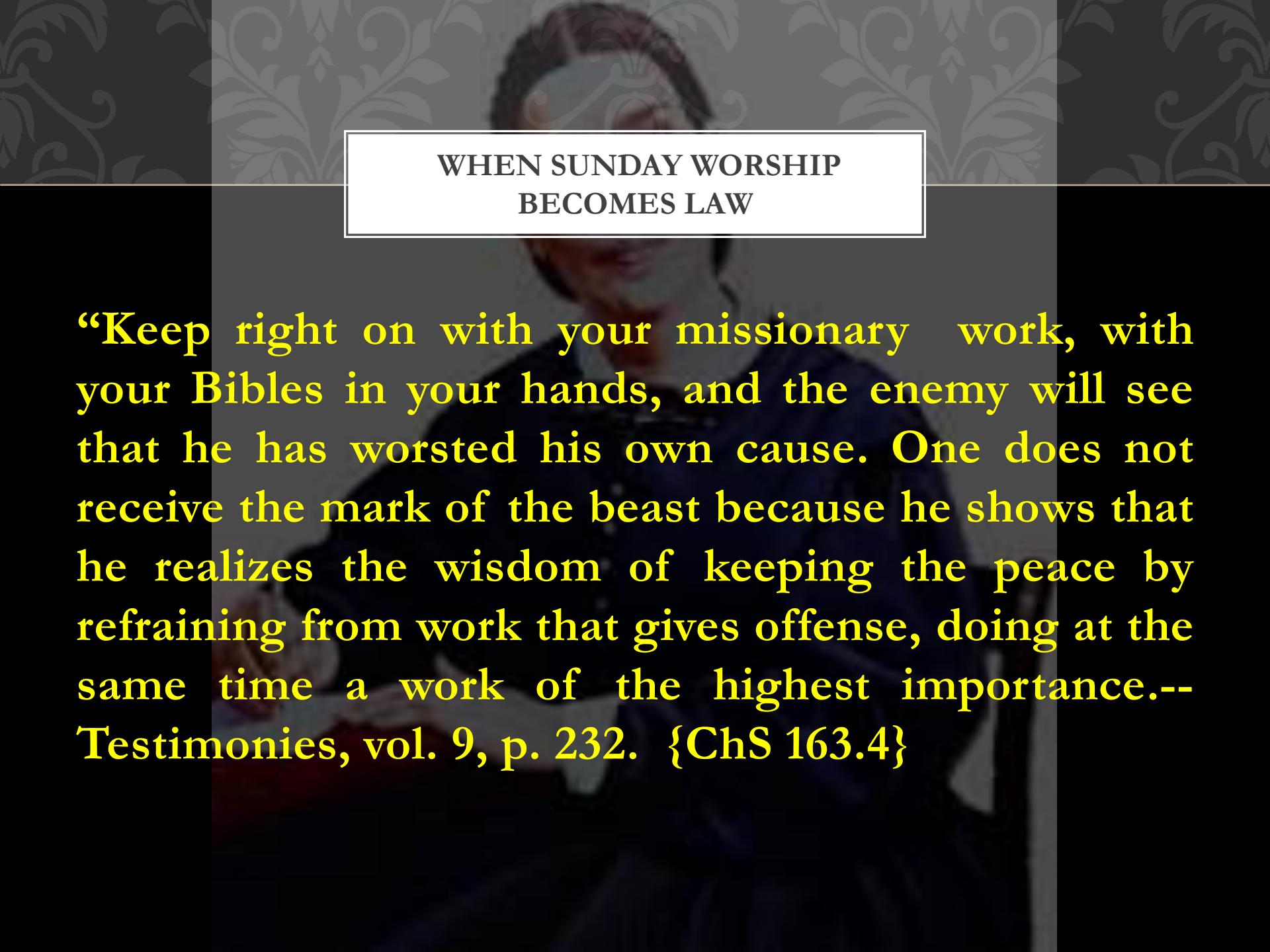
PROCEED WITH CAUTION

"Even Christ said to His disciples, 'I have many things to say unto you, but ye can not bear them now.' We must not go into a place, open our satchels, show all we have, and tell everything that we know at once. We must work cautiously, presenting the truth by degrees, as the hearers can bear it, but keep close to the Word."-- Ellen G. White manuscript 22a, 1895. Published in The Southern Work, pp. 128-136.



WHEN SUNDAY WORSHIP BECOMES LAW

“To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to call you law-breakers. If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the observance of Sunday.



WHEN SUNDAY WORSHIP BECOMES LAW

“Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance.--
Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 232. {ChS 163.4}

WHEN SUNDAY WORSHIP BECOMES LAW

When we devote Sunday to missionary work, the whip will be taken out of the hands of the arbitrary zealots who would be well pleased to humiliate Seventh-day Adventists. When they see that we employ ourselves on Sunday in visiting the people and opening the Scriptures to them, they will know that is useless for them to try to hinder our work by making Sunday laws.--*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 232,233. {ChS 164.1}

WHEN SUNDAY WORSHIP BECOMES LAW

Sunday can be used for carrying forward various lines of work that will accomplish much for the Lord. On this day open-air meetings and cottage meetings can be held. House-to-house work can be done. Those who write can devote this day to writing their articles. Whenever it is possible, let religious services be held on Sunday. Make these meetings intensely interesting. Sing genuine revival hymns, and speak with power and assurance of the Saviour's love. Speak on temperance and on true religious experience. --Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 233. {ChS 164.2}

WHEN SUNDAY WORSHIP BECOMES LAW

Let the teachers in our schools devote Sunday to missionary effort. I was instructed that they would thus be able to defeat the purposes of the enemy. Let the teachers take the students with them to hold meetings for those who know not the truth. Thus they will accomplish much more that they could in any other way.--*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 233. {ChS 164.3}

THE WORLD WILL PASS AWAY

1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 2:16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

GOD'S KINGDOM STANDS FOREVER

Dan. 7:21-22 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Rom 16:19-20 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

GOD'S KINGDOM STANDS FOREVER

James 5:7-12 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

GOD'S KINGDOM STANDS
FOREVER

Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.